

AD 165 onwards. All this forms a composite picture which cannot be reduced to the dramatic events of AD 255-56.

Zeugma, 400km north-east of Dura, on the border between the Romans and their bellicose neighbour of the third century AD, was also destroyed by the armies of Shapur I during the same campaign, perhaps three or four years before. Important rescue excavations have taken place there in 2000; they will shed new light on our knowledge of Roman and oriental military equipment of the period (see Kennedy *et al.* 1998; Feugère in print). To such studies, as well as to other projects on the territory of the ancients Sassanids, the book of S. James will prove an invaluable resource. Not only does it bring a collection of extraordinary finds to the attention of scholars, but it is also a model of clarity, careful analysis and impressive erudition. We have to thank Simon James for this major contribution to military studies as well as to eastern archaeology.

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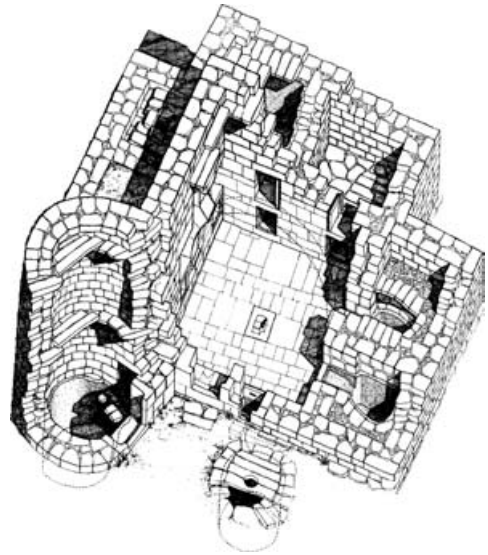
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JACQUELINE DENTZER-FEYDY, JEAN-MARIE DENTZER, PIERRE-MARIE BLANC (ed.) with MIKAËL KALOS & PHILIPPE TONDON. *Hauran II: les installations de SI' 8, du sanctuaire à l'établissement viticole, vol. I texte, vol. II*

planches (Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique 164). Vol. I: 352 pages, 26 figures, 2 pullout maps, 9 tables. Vol. II: 199 plates. 2003. Beirut: Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient; 2-912738-18-0 (vol. I) & 2-912738-21-0 (vol. II) paperback €50.

The primary aim of this book is to present the results from three seasons of excavations at the site of Si' 8 in southern Syria between 1977 and 1979 by a French team led by J.-M. Dentzer. However, it goes far beyond this scope, as it integrates several in-depth studies relevant to the entire Near East.



Si' is a large late Hellenistic and Roman site situated on a hill on the north-western slopes of Jabal al-'Arab, an area known for the large Roman cities of Suwaydā'/Dionysias, Qanawāt/Canatha and Shāhbā'/Philippopolis. Si' is famous mainly for an extensive sanctuary consisting of three temples dedicated to Baalshamin, while Si' 8 is a smaller monument down the hill, close to the sacred road leading to the main sanctuary. This set of volumes is the second of a series on the work of the French team in this area of southern Syria. The first (*Hauran I*, 2 volumes edited by J.-M. Dentzer, 1985) was devoted to the basalt region of southern Syria in general. Other volumes in the series will present the results of excavations at the sanctuary of Baalshamin and in the nearby village, and of survey around Si' and Qanawāt.

Prior to excavations, standing remains in Si' 8 suggested the presence of another sanctuary or temple-like structure. Excavations confirmed this hypothesis

and brought to light two completely different phases of construction and occupation. The first is a late first century AD sanctuary. The second is a large early Islamic winery dated to the end of Umayyad period (mid-eighth century AD).

The book is divided into two volumes (text and plates). Volume I is organised in seven sections presenting and interpreting all the data from the excavations at Si' 8. Part 1 presents the excavations and the stratigraphy of the site, including all the drawn sections and stratigraphic matrices. Since the excavations distinguished two main phases, two sections are more extensive, Part 2 (the sanctuary) and Part 3 (the winery). Volume II is richly illustrated with black and white photographs, old photographs from previous explorers of the area, old aerial photographs, maps, plans, reconstructions, etc.

Part 2 presents the architecture and decoration of the sanctuary of the last quarter of the first century AD. The best-preserved elements of the monument are a forecourt with a tier of seats and porticoes and a main façade with a gateway flanked by two niches, making the interpretation of the whole structure a difficult task. It could be either a monumental gate leading to a sacred space or a temple with forecourt. The discussion points to a temple, perhaps to a closed structure of the *adyton* type, well represented in the region, or an open-air platform supporting a representation of a deity, a formula also known in the Near East. The carved decoration belongs to a repertoire still distant from the Roman imperial art of the time, more in tune with Parthian Mesopotamia. The plan and decoration of the Si' 8 monument are well integrated into a group of sanctuaries in southern Syria, many among them dated roughly to the reign of Agrippa II (c. AD 50-95) and representing good examples of late Hellenistic art in the Syro-Palestinian area.

Part 3, devoted to the winery, is of considerable interest for the economic history of the Near East during Late Antiquity and Early Islam. The winery is well dated to the end of the Umayyad period and belongs to a developed type also known in other areas of the southern Levant (Arabia and Palestinian provinces) between the fourth and eighth centuries. It consists of small storerooms around a large central treading/pressing room with a vertical screw press. Nevertheless, some features not found elsewhere in the southern Levant lead the authors to propose a different process of wine production, intended to produce a wine of special quality. This part of the book is enriched by the presentation of several other

wineries, excavated or surveyed in the immediate vicinity of Si' and in the north-west Jabal al-'Arab, and by a discussion of the importance of vineyards and wine in the rural economy of southern Syria. Part 3 ends with a welcome chapter giving the results of archaeobotanical studies, an approach still largely ignored by Classical and Islamic studies in the Near East. Relying on samples from Si' and Bosra, it provides a clearer idea of the ancient environment and its changes through the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. The major contribution of these chapters is to bring to light, using archaeological evidence, a new wine-growing region that was, until now, only known from a few ancient textual sources. It is an important benchmark and it is hoped that it will promote the investigation of remains of rural economic activities in other areas of modern Syria, where ancient wine production, though well known from literary evidence, is still missing from archaeological reports.

Parts 4 to 6 are devoted to the material culture, especially the pottery, glass and coins, as well as a few Greek and Semitic inscriptions. It is worth noting that the pottery report deals only with locally produced wares and not with imported categories; these will be published later. Part 7 is concerned with the Roman road network in southern Syria. The study is based on ground reconnaissance, on a systematic inventory of milestones and on accurate observations of aerial photographs from the French Mandate period. It provides an up-to-date picture of a complex network prominently built for the needs of the imperial and provincial administration and the army, rather than for trade.

To sum up, *Hauran II* is an important contribution to the archaeology and history of southern Syria and it will interest anyone dealing with the late Hellenistic, Roman, late Antique and early Islamic periods in the Near East.

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FRIEDERIKE HAMMER. *Industry in north-west Roman Southwark: excavations 1984-8* (MoLAS Monograph 17). xiv+186 pages, 112 figures, 90 tables. 2003. London: Museum of London Archaeology Service; 1-901992-34-9 paperback £13.95.

Anyone who has excavated Roman sites in Britain will know that one of their most striking characteristics,